

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Arturo Dominguez, and I am from Wallingford, Connecticut. I am in favor of H.B. 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

I think it's important to expand medical coverage to all regardless of immigration status because we too get sick and have a need for medical care. When I had COVID, I needed medical care but was unable to get the help I needed. Without coverage, we cannot get care. I now have PTSD due to an incident at work of racism and discrimination based on sexuality. I am now going through a very challenging time, and I believe it's important for everyone to have healthcare coverage.

Recently, when I went through the problem that I passed at work, I needed a psychiatric consult, which was very difficult for me to obtain. I went through lots of challenges to obtain the help that I have now. When you have mental health challenges, you'll sometimes go through periods of suicidal ideations. Due to my immigration status, I was unable to get the help I needed.

When I got COVID, I could not go to the doctor because I did not have health care. Until I got very sick, I went to the hospital where I had to stay for over a month. I had to spend lots of time in therapy. To this day, I still struggle with lung troubles due to how long I had to wait to receive care and PTSD from my job situation. It would be easier if all people had healthcare coverage and more access to information.

This legislation would first of all help a lot because we would have increased access to information regarding healthcare. Currently, the lack of information makes it very difficult. This legislation is both for physical health and mental health. Lives can be lost due to not having medical coverage. We can lose many lives without proper health and mental health.

I support expanding HUSKY to all, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Arturo Dominguez